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customs, a copy of which I inclose, and much regret that it is not possible for the chamber, under the circumstances, to bring about the change that you desire.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant, WM. D. LENT,
Chairman.

Mr. SAMUEL L. GRACEY,
Consul for the United States and Senior Consul, Foochow.

I again called the consular body together and they directed me to communicate the above facts to your excellency and to request that some steps be taken to free the port from the burden that is laid upon its commerce by its being declared infected. They would suggest that this might be accomplished by first, requiring all ships with disease on board to fly a yellow flag. If no cases of infectious disease are on board, vessels to stop at the harbor limit until visited by a doctor, who, if he finds no disease, will give a free pratique, when she can proceed to her proper anchorage; second, that a health officer be appointed to visit all vessels entering the port; third, that a mat shed or other suitable building, be erected below the shipping to receive patients; fourth, that a steam launch be placed at the service of the health officer.

We would also suggest that the carrying out of these suggestions be left with the superintendent of customs and the regulations be kindly submitted to the consular body.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

SAMUEL L. GRACEY,
United States Consul and Senior Consul,

His Excellency HSU YING K'UEI,
Viceroy of Minche, Foochow.

COSTA RICA.

Yellow fever in Alajuela, 3,000 feet above sea level, and Heredia.

SAN JOSÉ, COSTA RICA, August 4, 1899.

SIR: I regret to advise that the yellow fever, at times prevalent on both littorals of Costa Rica, has for the first time made its appearance at Alajuela, a town of about 10,000 inhabitants at the terminus of the Costa Rica Railroad, 14 miles west of San José. The first case was that of a man just from Punta Arenas where there have been sporadic cases for some time. There have been 12 cases thus far and 1 at Heredia, a town of about 5,000 population, 6 miles hence on the same railroad line.

San José and Cartago, as well as the minor cities in the San José valley, being from 3,000 to 5,000 feet above sea level, have hitherto always been considered a safe refuge against this tropical disease. Alajuela is about 3,000 feet above sea level, while San José is nearly 1,000 feet higher. The Government has ordered the cases quarantined, but the communication by rail continues uninterrupted. A medical commission has been appointed to enforce sanitary regulation. The disease is mostly confined to the lower classes living in damp and badly drained houses. At Punta Arenas there have been a few sporadic cases during the last few months, while Limon is now entirely free from fever, except of the ordinary malarial type, always more or less prevalent on Central American coasts. Port Limon is the most improved seaport in Central America. The grade has been raised, sewerage provided, streets well paved, and cement sidewalks constructed. An ample supply of potable water has recently been furnished by means of a pipe line from a mountain stream back of the port. A concrete sea wall has been completed at low-tide mark and filled in. When the improvements are completed it should become one of the healthiest seaports on the Caribbean Sea. With the precautions that are being taken a serious epidemic is not apprehended here, but the people of Costa Rica are surprised that the altitude of their interior country can not be depended

upon to ward off yellow fever, and will hereafter be disposed to adopt effective preventive measures heretofore deemed unnecessary.

Your most obedient servant,

WILLIAM LAWRENCE MERRY,
United States Minister.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF STATE.

CUBA.

Sanitary report from Havana.

HAVANA, CUBA, *August 12, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit my weekly report of the sanitary conditions of this port, together with the mortuary statistics of the week ended August 10, and report of infectious diseases from the office of the chief sanitary inspector of the city.

In spite of the small amount of yellow fever in the city, there has been nearly the usual amount reported in the shipping. Cases having occurred on the steamships *North Anglia*, *Krim*, and *Sutherland*; on the last 2 while en route from Havana, and aboard 2 vessels in the harbor, the brigantine *Lista* and the lanchan *Estrella*. The cases on the last 2 were contracted ashore; the vessels, however, were disinfected afterwards.

All 3 of the steamships lay at the Casa Blanca, and it is reasonably certain that the first one, the *North Anglia*, contracted the disease there; the same is probably true for the *Krim*; for the *Sutherland*, I think not. The crew, mainly, stayed aboard, liberty not having been allowed, and none of them became sick. The captain was often ashore, and he is the only one who sickened, and died at Santiago.

It would seem reasonable then to look for the source of infection from some place where the captain alone was exposed, rather than to the exposure which he shared in common with the crew, that is, elsewhere than Casa Blanca; still he generally slept aboard the vessel and may have contracted it there. Another case was discovered to-day on board the *Henry L. Gregg*; this vessel lay at the Tallapeidra Wharf about four weeks; the man sickened six days ago. I believe the master of the vessel concealed the case, suspecting it to be yellow fever, and only reported it when he found the man was going to die.

I have ordered, and to-day and to-morrow will make an inspection of every vessel in the harbor by a medical officer, to see if there is any other similar case. In addition to this thing being forbidden by the regulations of this harbor, it is known that from this office we visit and treat free all seamen on American ships. I have taken such measures to enforce the report of all cases of a febrile nature, occurring on board ship, that I am confident that no vessel will omit to do so twice.

Nine cases of yellow fever have been reported to the office of the sanitary inspector during the past week, of which, 2 only were among soldiers, 1 occurring at Cabañas, and 1 on the Punta. The troops from the Punta have been moved away, into the country. The conditions under which the case at Cabañas occurred are such as to lead us to believe it was not contracted in this fortress.

The place was disinfected where this case developed.

And here let me invite your attention to the excellent results secured by Major Armstrong at Principe, by prompt removal and disinfection after the occurrence of a case: In the Fifteenth Infantry Barracks 4 cases of yellow fever developed under conditions which showed that